

operate were consulted and the nature of the consultation."

Page 64, after line 13, add the following:

SEC. 1308A. NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 131(c)(3) (42 U.S.C. 12583(c)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) in the case of a program that is not funded through a State, including programs operated by nonprofit organizations seeking to operate a national service program in 2 or more States—

"(A) consult with and coordinate with the State Commission for the State in which the program operates; and

"(B) obtain written confirmation from the State Commission that the applicant seeking assistance under this Act has consulted with and coordinated with the State Commission when seeking to operate a program in that State."

Page 64, line 21, strike "and" at the end.

Page 65, line 10, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

Page 65, after line 10, add the following:

(3) by amending subsection (d)(3) to read as follows:

"(3) **ADDITIONAL PRIORITY.**—In making a competitive distribution under section 129(c), the Corporation—

"(A) shall solicit and consider the view of a State Commission regarding any application for assistance to operate a national service program within the State; and

"(B) may give priority to a national service program that is—

"(i) proposed in an application submitted by a State Commission; and

"(ii) not one of the types proposed in paragraph (2),

if the State Commission provides an adequate explanation of the reasons why it should not be a priority of such State to carry out any of such types of programs in the State."

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1015, the gentleman from California (Ms. MATSUI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer a bipartisan amendment to the GIVE Act. The Matsui-Shays amendment makes needed changes to national service and carries with it broad support. Our amendment will combine the two separate State competitive funds and national competitive funds into one singular funding pool. This change will improve national service efficiency and effectiveness, while increasing collaboration between State and national interests.

Every year organizations and the individuals they support are turned away from the grants they need because of high demand or simple administrative burdens. The current funding formula gives approximately one-third of the funding to the States based on population, approximately one-third to State competitive grants, and approximately one-third to a national competitive funding pool. Under the current formula, a high demand for State competitive grants means that State grant applicants are turned away even if there are resources still available in the national pool and vice versa.

Additionally, these deserving nonprofits and community service organi-

zations spend far too many of their valuable resources navigating a confusing applications process and managing multiple grants. If this amendment passes, these precious resources will now be used to better serve their communities.

At its heart the amendment ensures that grants are competitively distributed based on merit and that resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join Congressman SHAYS and myself, as well as the Governor-appointed State service commissions, national service organizations, leading nonprofits, and Members from both sides of the aisle in support of this valuable amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the amendment and commend the maker of the amendment for helping to want to bring more competition to the process of the grants being awarded and more cooperation between the national and the State organizations. I'm aware that the National Governors Association has indicated its support for this amendment and the end result will be a stronger program, a program that is really more about less administrative costs and more dollars flowing to the programs that are going to make a difference in our communities, whether it be national or State.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, at this point I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman from California, and I thank Mr. SHAYS.

Mr. Chairman, we are in full support of this amendment. The GIVE Act seeks to improve national service and to do so in innovative, creative ways. And this amendment does just that. We are grateful to Ms. MATSUI and Mr. SHAYS for bringing forth this amendment.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to associate myself with the remarks earlier from the gentleman from Connecticut, who spoke in favor of this amendment during his previous statement, and again to ask all Members to support this amendment when it is put before us for a vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, again I urge my colleagues to support the Matsui-Shays amendment.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Congresswoman MATSUI and the Committee on Education and Labor for all of their hard work on bringing H.R. 2857 to the floor today. I would also like to thank the work and dedication of Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON, Subcommittee Chairwoman DAVIS, and Subcommittee Ranking Member PLATTS.

I believe national service is one of the most productive, cost effective investments our government can make.

Since the inception of the Corporation for National and Community Service, of which I was a co-author, more than 1 billion service hours have been generated by Senior Corps volunteers, more than 40,000 individuals have served through AmeriCorps, and more than 1 million high school students have participated annually in service-learning initiatives.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, natural disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the increasing achievement gap in education, the call to serve is louder than ever.

Our amendment will revise and improve the funding formula for AmeriCorps, which engages more than 40,000 Americans in service throughout the Nation, by combining State and national competitive funding streams.

National service programs throughout the country believe this change will provide a better means of allocating this funding and will bring the highest quality programs to States.

The change will also enable States to compete for more funding and provide States with more choices of programs.

Community service is about helping people, and it is also about gaining deeper understanding of each other and the world around us.

Through service, Americans of all ages gain a sense of commitment to their communities and their country, which will prove valuable for the rest of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment in order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of this valuable program.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. McDERMOTT

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 110-539.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. McDERMOTT:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE VI—CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON CIVIC SERVICE

SEC. 6101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Congressional Commission on Civic Service Act".

SEC. 6102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The social fabric of the United States is stronger if individuals in the United States